

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TOKYO 12376 070917Z  
ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SP-02 EB-04 INR-05 IO-06  
EA-06 NSC-05 /050 W  
-----042061 080547Z /16 S  
R 070911Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9421

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 12376

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: EG, JA  
SUBJECT: FUKUDA VISIT AND JAPANESE MIDDLE EAST ROLE

REF: CAIRO 16467

1. WE AGREE WITH OBSERVATION REFTEL THAT JAPANESE FAIL TO RECOGNIZE OR ARE RELUCTANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE DEGREE OF THEIR IMPORTANCE IN MIDDLE EAST AND POTENTIAL INFLUENCE THEY MIGHT WIELD. WHILE MODEST EVALUATION OF THEIR ROLE IS CHARACTERISTIC OF JAPANESE DIPLOMACY WORLDWIDE, IT IS ESPECIALLY PRONOUNCED VIS-A-VIS MIDDLE EAST BECAUSE OF DEPENDENCY AND VULNERABILITY JAPANESE PERCEIVE IN THEIR RELATIONS WITH THAT REGION.

2. FUKUDA TRIP, WHICH WOULD BE FIRST BY JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER TO AREA, MAY WELL BE PART OF JAPANESE EFFORT TO DEVELOP, GRADUALLY, SOMEWHAT HIGHER POSTURE THERE. PROCESS WILL BE INCREMENTAL, HOWEVER, AND WE SUSPECT JAPANESE WILL BE WARY FOR LONG TIME TO COME OF DIRECT INVOLVEMENT IN MIDDLE EAST POLITICAL ISSUES OR ARAB-ISRAELI NEGOTIATING PROCESS. NONETHELESS, IDEA OF MORE ACTIVE JAPANESE POLITICAL ROLE IN REGION HAS MERIT AND IS WORTH DISCUSSING  
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PAGE 02 TOKYO 12376 070917Z

WITH GOJ. UPCOMING VISIT OF MIDDLE EAST BUREAU DIRGEN CHIBA WOULD BE TIMELY OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE POINT. CHIBA IS TOP GOJ OFFICIAL WORKING IN AREA, AND CONVERSATION WITH HIM NOW COULD HAVE DIRECT AND SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON GOJ POLICY PROCESS WHILE PLANS FOR FUKUDA VISIT ARE STILL IN EARLY STAGES OF FORMULATION. CHIBA, ONE OF MOFA'S MOST OUTSTANDING OFFICIALS, IS FORCEFUL AND ARTICULATE ADVOCATE

OF GOJ VIEWS, BUT IS ALSO OPEN TO PERSUASION. WE WOULD  
URGE AMBASSADOR EILTS TO SEE HIM IF AT ALL POSSIBLE.  
MANSFIELD

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 07 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978TOKYO12376  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**TAGS:** OVIP, PEPR, EG, JA, XF, (FUKUDA, TAKEO)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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